TABLE NO: [ ]

MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

STUDENT ID NO [| | | | | | | | | |]

MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

FINAL EXAMINATION

TRIMESTER 1, 2018/2019

PCR0025 – CRITICAL THINKING

(All Sections / Groups)

23 OCTOBER 2018
2.30 P.M – 4.30 P.M
(2 Hours)

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENT

1. This question paper consists of **13 pages.**
2. Answer **ALL** questions and write your answers in this **question paper.**
3. Write down the number of questions answered in the table provided.
4. This question paper is **NOT** allowed to be taken out of the examination hall.

STUDENT ID	:	
COURSE	:	
LECTURER	:	
GROUP (IF APPLICABLE)	:	
VENUE	:	

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QUESTION	MARKS
TOTAL	

EXAMINER AUTHORISATION: Tick (✔) in the appropriate box.

	All written pages have been checked.
	All marks have been calculated correctly.

Examiner 1:		Signature and Date:	
Examiner 2:		Signature and Date:	

STRUCTURED QUESTIONS [50 MARKS]

Instructions: Answer **ALL** questions. Write your answers in the question paper.

Question 1 [10 marks]

a) *You have heard teachers or students claim that yellow paper helps students perform better on math exams. Could the colour of paper used in a test or assignment have an impact on academic performance?*

Analyse the situation above and describe the step-by-step procedure on how a controlled study can/should be conducted in order to provide a scientific evidence to answer the research question above.

(5 marks)

Continued...

b) Analyse the statements below and describe the goals of science.

Science is a methodology for increasing understanding. So, if your purpose is to increase your understanding, Science may be useful. It is not the only way to increase understanding, but it has the useful property that it can be used to reach certain goals.

(5 marks)

Continued...

Question 2 [10 marks]

Analyse the statements below and indicate whether they made up an argument or non-argument. If it is an argument, indicate its' premise/s and conclusion/s. If it is a non-argument, indicate its' type.

(10 marks)

a) Freedom of speech and expressions are essential to a democratic form of government.

b) Two teenagers saw the movie, "Natural Born Killers," and went out on a killing spree. On another occasion, a number of teenagers who have committed violence at schools have spent many hours playing video games filled with murder and violence. We must have some stricter controls on the content of entertainment that is viewed by teenagers.

c) It's going to rain because the meteorologist said so.

Continued...

d) If the French had not helped, the Americans probably would not have won the Revolutionary War.

e) Mary and Ian left for work on Wednesday but decided to go to the movies instead. Their boss was having a meeting that day, and they missed it. That is why they did not hear about the layoffs.

f) Mary and Ian, you are irresponsible. You should not have gone to the movies, especially when you had an important meeting. You should always go to meetings.

g) The Beatles were the greatest rock band of all times.

Continued...

h) All dogs are mammals. All trout are fish. All oaks are trees. And each other living thing also falls within some biological category.

i) Some muskrats are not nocturnal, for naturalists who have studied the habits of these animals have determined that there is evidence of muskrats feeding during the day and sleeping at night.

j) All architectural engineers have studied Mathematics. It follows that Judy has studied Mathematics, since Judy is an architectural engineer.

Continued...

Question 3 [10 marks]

a) Analyse the arguments below and decide on the specific pattern each argument exemplifies (name the pattern of the argument i.e modus pones etc.). Determine also whether it is valid, invalid, strong or weak.

(5 marks)

i. If a person has cancer, then he is seriously ill. But Mr. Phillip is not sick of cancer. Therefore, Mr. Phillip is not seriously ill.

ii. If someone gets the bon bons, then he does not need the pop corns. Charlie needed pop corns. Therefore, he did not get the bon bons.

iii. Mr. Alan, one of the witnesses of the crime, claimed that there are 8 men (including him), 6 women, and 12 kids at the party. By simple addition, therefore, it follows that there are 26 people at the party.

Continued…

iv. About 97% of climate experts agree that humans are causing global warming. Therefore, probably, humans are causing global warming.

v. If you smoke pot, even only once in your life, you will start using heroin. You do use heroin, and therefore, this indicates that you have been smoking pot earlier.

b) Analyse the arguments below and determine whether it is sound, unsound, cogent or uncogent. Explain your answer in each case.

(5 marks)

i. If you are a confident driver and have never been in an accident, then driving over the speed limit is not dangerous for you or others. You are a confident driver and have never been in an accident. Doubtless, then, driving over the speed limit is not dangerous for you or others.

Continued...

ii. We left our parrot in the house this morning. The nearest neighbour lives one kilometre away. When we got home from work, the parrot was gone. It's most probable that our neighbour stole the parrot.

iii. If I owned all the gold in Fort Knox, then I would be wealthy. I do not own all the gold in Fort Knox. Therefore, I am not wealthy.

iv. No one gets an A in philosophy unless he or she works hard. Waldo works hard. Waldo gets an A.

Continued…

v. Some apples are red. Some apples are delicious. So, some apples are red and delicious.

Question 4 [10 marks]

Analyse the concepts below and write an example for each of them.

a) Valid but unsound argument

b) Valid and sound argument

Continued...

c) Invalid argument

d) Weak argument

e) Strong but uncogent argument

Continued…

Question 5 [10marks]

Analyse each of the following arguments and indicate which fallacy is committed. If no fallacy is committed, write 'no fallacy'.

(10 marks)

a) I have no reason to think there aren't 30 students in this class. So, there (probably) are 30 students in this class.

b) Don't listen to Dave's argument on gun control. He's not the brightest bulb in the chandelier.

c) We can either agree with Barbara's plan, or just let the project fail. There is no other option.

d) Two members of my team have become more engaged employees after taking public speaking classes. That proves we should have mandatory public speaking classes for the whole company to improve employee engagement.

Continued…

e) Our blog views were down in April. We also changed the colour of our blog header in April. This means that changing the colour of the blog header led to fewer views in April.

f) Global warming does not exist because the earth is not getting warmer.

g) How could an employer be so cruel as to fire a worker like Robert Gonzalez? Of course, his absenteeism has been significant, and he has difficulty getting to work on time. And it's true that customers have complained about his rudeness. But, he has seven children to support, house payments to make, and college loans to repay.

h) So, what if I take home a few rubber bands and boxes of paper clips from my office desk drawer? These items are small, and no one will miss them. Moreover, my boss makes the company pay for his golf club dues, and no one questions his ethics.

Continued...

i) The FBI is still convinced that it was a bomb that brought down the aircraft. "The public believes it was a bomb," said Agent John Hunt. "Polls taken the day after the crash indicate that more than 75% of Americans believe it was terrorist's bomb."

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j) My boss isn't willing to increase the number of vacation days we get each year. That means she doesn't care about our health. It's wrong not to care about employees' health. She should be replaced with someone who cares about employees' health.

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